

52. (Not Amended Herein) A recorded article comprising a colored portion formed on a recording medium, wherein the colored portion comprises aggregates of fine particles, to which particles the coloring material is adsorbed in a monomolecular state, wherein each aggregate comprises fine particles agglomerated through the coloring material.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner and her supervisor for the courtesy of the interview that was held on January 15, 2003. Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 23-36, 39, 50 and 52 are pending in this application, with Claims 24-26, 33-36, 39 and 50-52 being the independent claims. Claim 51 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 27 is amended herein to more clearly recite its subject matter, without narrowing its scope, in accordance with terminology suggested at the interview. Claim 39 is amended herein to refer to fine particles instead of fine particles and aggregates of fine particles. It is submitted that no new matter has been added by the amendments herein.

As explained in the January 8, 2003 Amendment and in the interview, Applicants submit that the present invention, as recited in independent Claims 24-27, 33-36, 39, 50 and 52, is patentably defined over the cited references. The dependent claims should also be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.


Applicants also respectfully request that this Second Amendment After Final Rejection be entered. This Amendment could not have been presented earlier as it was earnestly believed that the claims on file would be found allowable. Given the Examiner's familiarity with the application, Applicants believe that a full understanding and consideration of this Amendment would not require undue time or effort by the Examiner. No new claims have been added. Moreover, for the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. At the very least, it is believed to place the application in better form for appeal. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is believed to be appropriate and such entry is respectfully requested.

The present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration, withdrawal of the Sections 112, 102 and

103 rejections set forth in the October 10, 2002 Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

27. (Three Times Amended) An ink-jet recorded image according to claim 24, wherein a ratio of the coloring material to the fine particles is larger in a peripheral portion of the image than in [a main] the remaining portion of the image.

39. (Twice Amended) A surface-treated article wherein the surface of the article has [at least one of] fine particles [and aggregates of fine particles], [the surface] each of the fine particles having a functional substance [that has been adsorbed] thereon by adsorption in a monomolecular state.

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